KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) and (b). Tissue Culture is a new technology which is still under trial in the country. The Department of Bio-Technology has initiated action in last three years to set up facilities by way of pilot plant units for producing plantlets using this technology. These plantlets are yet to be tried extensively under field conditions.

(c) and (d). Under the Afforestation and Tree Plantation Programme covering all States and Union Territories, the total area coverage from 1960 to 1990 was 16.7 million hectares, of which 8.88 million hectares was during the Seventh Plan period (185-90). In the last two years about 15,000 Tissue Culture raised plantlets have been taken up for condcting field trails.

(e) Monitoring and evaluation of the afforestation/tree planting activities is carried out through the State Governments who have their own have their own arrangements for this purpose. Studies and evaluation of social forestry activities carried out in different States reveal that these activities have contributed to increase in bio-mass production, employment opportunities and income generation in rural areas, encouragement of farm-forestry/agro-forestry on private lands, involvement of women and voluntary agencies in forestry activities.

[*Translation*]

Lifting Ban on Certain Medicines

4367. SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have lifted the ban imposed on certain medicines;

(b) if so, the names of those medicines; and

(c) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D.K. THARADEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

[*English*]

Admission in Aligarh Muslim University

4368. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Court of the Aligarh Muslim University has adopted a resolution proposing a scheme of admission with reservation for Muslim students;

(b) if so, the particulars of the proposed scheme;

(c) whether despite objection by the Government the Court has recently reaffirmed the resolution;

(d) whether the Government recognise the Aligarh Muslim University as a minority institution;

(e) if so, whether the Government have taken notice of the recent judgement of the Supreme Court recognising the right of minority institutions to reserve upto 50% of their intake for the community concerned; and

(f) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) to (c). The Court of Aligarh Muslim University, in its meeting held on 20.8.89, resolved inter alia to accept the recommendations of the Tyabji Committee for reservation of 50% seats in Class XI,

Degree Courses, Master's Courses and Professional Courses for Muslim candidates on the basis of merit. As this resolution was not in conformity with the provisions of Section 8 of the Aligarh Muslim University Act, 1920 which provides that the University shall be open to all persons of either sex and of whatever race, religion, creed or class, a show-cause-notice was issued to the University Act for annulment of the resolution. A reply to the show-cause-notice has not been received from the University.

(d) to (f). The implications of the recent Supreme Court Judgement, regarding admissions to minority institutions on other educational institutions including Aligarh Muslim University, are being examined.

Recommendations of Ali Sardar Jafri Committee

4369. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the recommendations of the Ali Sardar Jafri Committee on the implementation of the Gujral Committee Report on Urdu;

(b) the details of the recommendations which have been accepted by the Government; and

(c) the time by which these are to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) The report of the Committee to examine Implementation of Recommendations of Jafri Committee for promotion of Urdu (Ali Sardar Jafri Committee) has already been placed on the Table of Lok Sabha on 29th July, 1991.

(b) and (c). Government is yet to take decision in the matter.

[*Translation*]

Railway Passes

4370. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the rules under which railway passes for free travel are issued and the criteria thereof; and

(b) the number of such passes issued during the last three years, zone-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Presumably, the reference is to grant of Complimentary Card Passes issued to non-railwaymen/organisations. Such Card Passes are granted by he Ministry of Railways to eminent persons, organisations devoted to social, cultural, scientific, literary, sports and educational activities of all India character etc. These passes are issued based on the guidelines and justification/merits of each case.

(b) A total number of 272 Complimentary Card Passes have been issued during the last three years (1989,1990, 1991), generally available over all Zonal Railways.

Job Oriented Education

4371. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state the details of the steps taken to make the higher education vocationally job oriented?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): According to information furnished by UGC, the Commission has a scheme under which it provides financial assistance